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Lyle D. Jaffe, Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

I am upset to learn that egg laying hens are subjected to forced molting. I urge the FDA to ban this practice (docket #98P-0203/CP).

Of the many atrocities that egg layers endure, forced molting is exceptionally cruel. Because of the stress to the birds, the European egg producers restrict feed for one day. In America, it's a different story:

- Entire flocks are forced to molt concurrently
- The hens' food is removed or nutritionally reduced for approximately 10 days
- Artificial dark-light manipulation may be used
- Drugs and water removal may be used

As many as 5% to 25% of the hens die as a result of forced molting. In the industry's eyes, hens are the least expensive and most expendable component of factory egg production.

Forced molting is one of the many ugly practices hidden from the public. Most people have no idea that egg layers' lives are filled with pain and torment. I urge the FDA to oppose forced molting. I would appreciate your comments on this topic.

Respectfully yours,



Valerie Bennett

98P-0203

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